

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 as follows (see the accompanying "Marked-Up" version pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121):

Please replace claims 1, 5 and 6 with the following amended claims 1, 5 and 6.

1. (Twice Amended) A telescopic unit including:

a first tubular member whose cross section is in the shape of an involute curve;

and

a second tubular member whose cross section is in the shape of an involute curve, which is inserted in said first tubular member so as to be capable of rotating in the circumferential directions and enabling the adjustment of the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member; wherein:

one or more press receiving surface portions are formed on the inner cylindrical surface of the first tubular member, said press receiving surface portions having a cross section which has an arc-shaped surface such that the center axis of the arc extends in parallel with the center axis of said first tubular member;

one or more press applying surface portions are formed on the outer cylindrical surface of the second tubular member, said press applying surface portions having a cross section which has an arc-shaped surface such that the center axis of the arc extends in parallel with the center axis of said second tubular member;

rotation of the second tubular member in one direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member causes given locations of the press applying surface portions to be pressed against the press receiving surface portions, thereby securing the second tubular member to the first tubular member;

41 rotation of the second tubular member in the other direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member releases the press applying surface portions and the press receiving surface portions from the press-contact with each other so that the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member can be adjusted; and

rotation of the second tubular member in the other direction is limited so as to prevent the given locations of the press applying surface portions to be pressed against the press receiving surface portions.

5. (Twice Amended) A telescopic unit including:

a first tubular member whose cross section is in the shape of an involute curve;

and

Dr a second tubular member which is inserted in the first tubular member so as to be capable of rotating in the circumferential directions and enabling the adjustment of the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member and has a cross section that is in the shape of an involute curve and corresponds to the cross section of the first tubular member; wherein:

rotation of the second tubular member in one direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member causes the outer surface of said second tubular member to be pressed against the inner surface of the first tubular member, thereby securing the second tubular member to the first tubular member; and

rotation of the second tubular member in the other direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member releases the outer surface of the second tubular member and the inner surface of the first tubular member from the press-contact with each other so that the

03 distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member can be adjusted.

6. (Twice Amended) A telescopic unit including:

a first tubular member whose cross section has a shape comprised of a combination of identical parts of an involute curve; and

a second tubular member which is inserted in the first tubular member so as to be capable of rotating in the circumferential directions and enabling the adjustment of the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member and has a cross section whose shape corresponds to that of the first tubular member and is comprised of a combination of identical parts of an involute curve; wherein:

rotation of the second tubular member in one direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member causes the outer surface of said second tubular member to be pressed against the inner surface of the first tubular member, thereby securing the second tubular member to the first tubular member; and

rotation of the second tubular member in the other direction circumferentially relative to the first tubular member releases the outer surface of the second tubular member and the inner surface of the first tubular member from the press-contact with each other so that the distance by which the second tubular member projects from the first tubular member can be adjusted.